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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Capital punishment

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 41

For the existing text, substitute

41. Not all the reported offences subject to capital punishment seem to comply with the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1984/50, in particular the first safeguard, according to which "capital punishment may be imposed only for the most serious crimes, being understood that their scope should not go beyond intentional crimes with lethal or other extremely grave consequences". Moreover, not all the reported offences seem to comply with article 6, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates that the death penalty may be imposed only for the most serious crimes involving loss of life. For example, offences aimed at the domination of a social class or at overthrowing the basic economic and social orders, and theft in aggravated circumstances, sexual intercourse with a female relative under 15 or arousing of religious and sectarian feelings and propagation of Zionist ideas may not stand the test of a "most serious crime" as understood in the safeguards and in article 6 of the Covenant, at least for those States by which it has been ratified.

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